

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 18, 2007
To: Representative, Jack Wells, Chairman
From: Ted A. Hirsch, Chief Executive Officer, Kalispell Regional Medical Center
RE: Hearing of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and
Flathead Valley Community College

Dear Chairman Wells:

On behalf of Kalispell Regional Medical Center, please accept our most sincere regrets that our staff is not able to attend this Hearing of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, to testify directly to the critical and unique role Flathead Valley Community College students and staff play in supporting KRMC to provide quality, affordable healthcare to Montanans.

As you know, northwest Montana continues to grow at a rate that outpaces many parts of the state. New residents to our area report they are drawn here for the exceptional quality of life, job and educational opportunities and excellent affordable healthcare.

For more than ten years FVCC and KRMC have successfully collaborated to develop targeted allied health degrees and health care training programs that further support this demand for high quality health care in our area. A few of the most important degrees developed recently through this partnership include: Radiology Technology, Surgical Technology and the Practical Nursing Program.

FVCC has always filled a critical workforce development and training need for KRMC and other healthcare providers across northwest Montana. But today, as our local economy continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, partnerships with FVCC have never been more important to large employers like KRMC.

We strongly urge you to continue to support in every way the good work of FVCC and the critical role FVCC plays to support our growing economy, by maintaining workforce development training and customized degrees that meet the evolving demands of our healthcare community, sometimes at a moments notice.

Thank you so much for your long-standing support of FVCC and for the critical role our local community college plays in providing health care graduates to northwest Montana. Once again, thank you for your consideration of our written testimony today. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 406-752-1742.

Sincerely,
Ted A. Hirsch
CEO/Kalispell Regional Medical Center